

REMARKS

The office action of May 7, 2010, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 3-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bode et al. in view of Verbickas and Cattaneo et al.

Finally, it is noted that claim 2 is allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, although each of the references teaches one of the technologies recited in claim 1, there is no suggestion of combining these technologies into a single method for operating rolling stands in a tandem cold rolling mill, as in the presently claimed invention. It would not be obvious to simply combine the feature of the references as argued by the Examiner. Each of the references deals with its own

specific rolling technology. There is no reason apparent to one skilled in the art or provided by the Examiner for combining the references. The only suggestion for making such a combination is the teaching of the present application. There is no suggestion for combining the technologies within a multiple-stand cold rolling mill, as recited in the presently claimed invention. Combining these technologies into a single mill is a complex undertaking that would not be obvious in light of the teachings of the individual technologies themselves.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI LLP

HM-717

By



Klaus P. Stoffel  
Reg. No. 31,668  
475 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 661-8000

Dated: October 7, 2010

CERTIFICATE OF EFS-WEB TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by EFS-web to the Commissioner for Patents on October 7, 2010.

By:   
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: October 7, 2010